

Remarks

Claims 3-4, 8-11, 26 and 30 are cancelled and claims 25, 28-29 and 31 are amended. The amendments to the claims are made to clarify Applicant's invention and are not intended to limit the equivalents to which any claim element may be entitled. No new matter was added by way of amendment. Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 12-25, 27-29 and 31 are currently pending.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant elects, with traverse, the claims of Group I (claims 1-27). Applicant, as required by the Examiner, further elects, with traverse, compound **15a**, which is Example 1 as depicted on pg. 22 of the application, where R_a and R_b are each $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$, and R_c , R_d and R_e are hydrogen; that is, structure (I) wherein the organic releasing group is the naphthoquinone species (II) and the substituents are defined as noted. It is Applicant's belief that claims 1-2, 5, 7, 14, 22, 25, 27-29 and 31 read on the elected compound. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, in view of the remarks presented herein, is respectfully requested.

The restriction requirement is traversed on the basis that Restriction Requirements are optional in all cases. M.P.E.P. § 803. If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it arguably may include claims to distinct or independent inventions. M.P.E.P. § 803. Moreover, it is submitted that Applicant should not be required to incur the additional costs associated with the filing of multiple divisional applications in order to obtain protection for the claimed subject matter. Applicant respectfully submits that no additional burden would be placed on the Examiner to examine the full scope of the pending claims; in particular the full scope of the claims of Group I (claims 1-27).

Thus, the Restriction Requirement has been properly traversed. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6905 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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Feb 15, 2006

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Date of Deposit: February 15, 2006

This paper or fee is being filed on the date indicated above using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: The Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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